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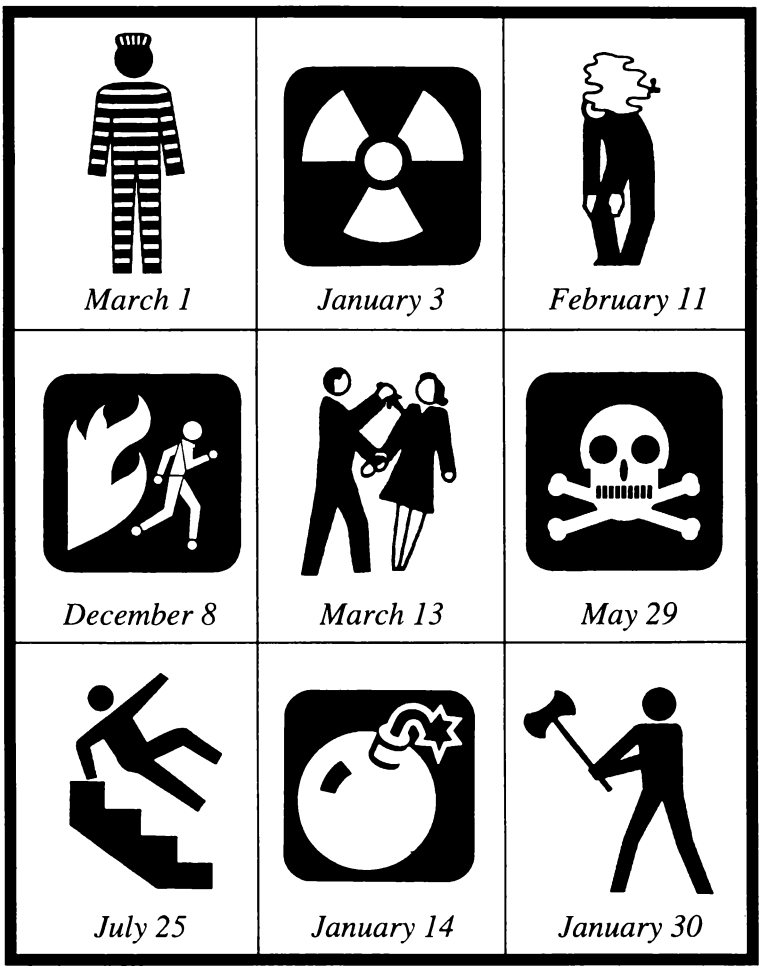
Murder Can Be Fun®



1995 DATEBOOK

Eight out of ten people are interested in murder, and of the two, one is a pretender.

–Edmund Pearson

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Greetings to the eagerly awaited eighth annual edition of *The Murder Can Be Fun Datebook*. As always, the dates are all new and all different from the seven preceding editions, although I must admit, April 1 had me at the end of my tether until the Marines came through. If the event for your birthday isn't as good as the one last year, well, maybe it will be better next year. To repeat what I said a few years ago, poor Sharon Tate can't get killed *every* day.

And, to carry on with yet another great tradition, here's the statistical breakdown of this year's entries. Observant minds will be quick to note that air crashes and train wrecks are down, accidents & man-made disasters are up, and it's going to be a very, very bad year for celebrities and rock musicians.

Murder/Homicide	116
Accidents & Man-Made Disasters	44
Air Crashes	29
Suicides & VIP Deaths	28
Miscellaneous	21
Train Wrecks	19
Sports	14
Terrorists	13
Natural Disasters	12
Executions--other	12
Assassinations/Political Executions	11
Robbery/Larceny	11
Rock 'n' Roll	11
War	6
Riots, Mobs, & Vigilantes	6
Nazis	6
Organized Crime	6

The 1995 Murder Can Be Fun Datebook is written, published, and copyrighted by the above mentioned John Marr -- © 1994, to be exact. While acknowledging that there may be errors in the text, Mr. Marr wisely wishes to absolve himself from any responsibility for damages caused by same (i.e., I will not cover the stupid bets you lost) and hastens to point out that many of these errors have a basis in the mistakes made by far better paid writers with extensive staffs of overpaid factcheckers. People who appreciate all this death & destruction are directed to check out the mother 'zine, *Murder Can Be Fun* for the same stuff in depth. A listing of available current and back issues can be found on the back cover. Kudos this time around to The Ds (in abstentia), KC, SduP, CJ, R/S, the 'zines (and the editors) *MD*, *TS*, *BF*, *IAWL*, *LP*, the PSers, KB, LJ, MR, JM, DV, and last but not least, datebook widow Diane C.

January

1
Sunday

16-year old Sean Stevenson, upset over not being allowed to go to a New Year's Eve Party, shoots his stepfather, mother, and pregnant teenage sister, Skumania, WA 1987

January

2 **Monday**	John Gacy picks up an unidentified teenage boy at the Chicago Greyhound terminal; the boy will become the first of Gacy's 33 victims, and the only one stabbed instead of strangled, 1972
3 **Tuesday**	Only US nuclear reactor deaths: a steam explosion caused by improper control rod removal from the SL-1 experimental reactor at the National Reactor Testing Station kills three technicians, Idaho Falls, ID 1961
4 **Wednesday**	Chuck Stewart commits suicide by jumping into the Mystic River 10 weeks after he killed his pregnant wife, injured himself, and blamed an imaginary black assailant, Boston, 1990
5 **Thursday**	40-yr. old basketball Hall of Fame member "Pistol" Pete Maravich, the all-time NBA scoring champ, collapses during a pick up basketball game and dies due to congenital heart defects, Pasadena, CA 1988
6 **Friday**	On an exceptionally busy day, free-lance executioner Robert Elliot conducts six electric chair executions, three in Charleston, MA and three at Sing Sing Prison, NY 1927
7 **Saturday**	A week after killing two cops, Mark Essex goes on a rampage through a Howard Johnson's, killing seven in and around the hotel during a 11-hour standoff before being killed by police, New Orleans, 1973
8 **Sunday**	Tupamaro terrorists kidnap British ambassador Geoffrey Jackson; although the government refuses their demands to free 150 prisoners, they release him unharmed eight months later, Montevideo, Uruguay 1971

The quest for freedom is death. Then by death I shall escape to freedom.
Political power comes from the barrel of a gun.
Kill pig Nixon and all his running dogs.
--slogans on walls of Mark Essex's apartment (January 7)

9 **Monday**	A small, quickly controlled fire in the Laurier Palace movie theater balcony starts a stampede during a children's matinee; all but one of the 78 dead are under 16, Montreal, Canada 1927
10 **Tuesday**	Labor organizer/folk singer Joe Hill, coiner of the phrase "pie in the sky", allegedly kills two men during a grocery store hold-up; he will be hanged for the crime amid much controversy, Salt Lake City, UT 1914
11 **Wednesday**	"Sex Beast" Melvin Rees, killer of at least eight, forces a family of four into the trunk of his car; he will shoot the father, rape and kill the mother, smother one child and beat the other to death, Apple Grove, VA 1959
12 **Thursday**	Alfred Rosenberg born, who will join the Nazi Party before Hitler, administer occupied Russia during World War II, and be executed at Nuremberg for war crimes, Reval, Estonia 1893
13 **Friday**	A theater catches fire during a New Year's Eve performance by the Circus Ferroni; at least 300 people die, in part because two of the three exits are nailed shut, Berdischeff, Russia, 1883
14 **Saturday**	Italian Nationalists led by Felice Orsini throw three bombs at Napoleon III's carriage in front of the Paris Opera, killing eight bystanders and injuring 148, but only slightly wounding the Emperor and Empress, 1858
15 **Sunday**	Seven months after it began, the jury starts deliberations in the trial of Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Leslie VanHouten, and Patricia Krenwinkel for the Tate/LaBianca murders, Los Angeles, 1971

January

16 **Monday**	An USAF tanker plane crashes into a residential area of Wichita, KS, killing the seven member crew and 23 on the ground, 1965
17 **Tuesday**	James Pough shoots four neighbors, killing two; before committing suicide the next day, he will kill eight and injure four more in the office of the loan company that repossessed his car, Jacksonville, FL 1990
18 **Wednesday**	42-yr. old Rusty Hamer, who played Danny Thomas's son on "Make Room For Daddy" but never made it as an adult actor, commits suicide by shooting himself in the head with a .357 Magnum, DeRidder, LA 1990
19 **Thursday**	After killing the sheriff and a prefect, Indians force their way into the house of New Mexico's first American Territorial Governor, Charles Bent, and scalp him and three others, Taos, NM 1847
20 **Friday**	A passenger train stopped on the Tehachapi Summit slips its brakes and careens four miles down the grade, reaching a speed of 70 mph before derailing; wreck and ensuing fire kill 21, CA 1883
21 **Saturday**	Former "Little Rascal" Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer shot and killed while threatening a debtor with a jack knife; the death is later ruled a justifiable homicide, Sun Valley, CA 1959
22 **Sunday**	At a news conference prior to his sentencing for taking a $300,000 kickback, former Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer shoots himself in the mouth with a pistol for the cameras, Harrisburg, PA 1987

After killing him I went to bed. End of the day, end of a drink, end of a person.

--Dennis Nilsen's journal (January 26)

23 **Monday**	Novelist David Graham Phillips shot by a man (who then shot himself) convinced that Phillips based a character in his best-seller *The Fashionable Adventures of Joshua Craig* on his sister, New York City, 1911
24 **Tuesday**	Miracle mongering fundamentalist preacher and university founder Oral Roberts born, Ada, OK 1918
25 **Wednesday**	An electrical short-circuit sparks an explosion and fire in a coal mine near Las Esperanzas, Mexico, killing 41 miners, 1988
26 **Thursday**	Dennis Nilsen, the "British Jeffrey Dahmer", strangles a 20-yr. old man, his 10th of 15 victi[illegible], London, 1983
27 **Friday**	Two pre-teen boys pile boards, pipes, and a large roll of wire fencing on a train track, causing a passenger train derailment that kills four and injures 45, Walton, IN 1947
28 **Saturday**	17-yr. old Charles Starkweather, accompanied by his 14-yr. old girlfriend Caril Fugate, shoots a wealthy elderly couple and their maid in their Lincoln, NB home, his 8th, 9th, and 10th of 11 victims, 1958
29 **Sunday**	Winnie Ruth Judd, who shot two of her women friends and chopped the bodies up to transport them to Los Angeles by train in 1931 only to be tripped up by a nosy baggage clerk, born, Oxford, IN 1905

January/February

30 **Monday**	Oliver Cromwell completes his overthrow of the monarchy and establishment of The Commonwealth by beheading Charles I, London, 1649
31 **Tuesday**	Robert Berdella, who imprisoned, tortured, raped, killed, and dismembered six young men in Kansas City in the mid 1980s, born, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 1949
1 **Wednesday**	A Lebanese passenger airliner collides in midair with a Turkish Air Force jet over Ankara, Turkey, killing all 17 on both planes; the blazing wreckage falls on a public square and kills another 78, 1963
2 **Thursday**	Coming off a 4-6-1 season, Holy Cross football coach Rick Carter hangs himself, West Boylston, MA 1986
3 **Friday**	Ronald Ryan, who shot and killed a prison guard while trying to escape from a Melbourne prison, becomes the last man to be hanged in Australia, Melbourne, 1967
4 **Saturday**	William Bergstrom, the "Phantom High Roller" who lost a record-setting $1 million on a single don't-pass craps bet in November, commits suicide by overdosing on sleeping pills, Las Vegas, NV 1985
5 **Sunday**	Ed Kemper picks up and immediately shoots his 5th and 6th (of eight) victims, two coeds hitchhiking on the UC Santa Cruz campus; he will later decapitate and rape them at his mother's house, 1973

Often a criminal is a man who does what other people merely think.
--Fredric Wertham

6 **Monday**	Basque terrorists open fire on Spanish Navy Vice Admiral Christobal Colon's car, killing him and his chauffeur and wounding an aide, Madrid, 1986
7 **Tuesday**	A US Navy training jet crashes into an apartment house and sets it on fire; killing the pilot and nine in the building, Alameda, CA 1973
8 **Wednesday**	Orangeburg Massacre: South Carolina highway patrolmen fire on black SC State students demonstrating to integrate a bowling alley, killing three the first students to be killed by police in the '60s, Orangeburg, SC, 1968
9 **Thursday**	A train disregards orders to pull off the main track onto a siding and collides head-on with the train it was supposed to let pass near Sand Point, OH, killing 15, 1904
10 **Friday**	The body of a woman, strangled and mutilated with a can opener, is found, the second of "Blackout Ripper" Gordon Cummins's four victims, London, 1942
11 **Saturday**	Poet Sylvia Plath commits suicide at age 31 by opening the gas taps in her house and asphyxiating herself, London, 1963
12 **Sunday**	High-ranking Nazi Julius Streicher, the publisher of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stuermer* who was hanged for war crimes at Nuremberg, born, Swabia, Germany, 1885

February

13 **Monday**	A fire set by arsonists in the luxury Regent of Manila Hotel kills 30, the Philippines, 1985
14 **Tuesday**	New York Mafia leader and national crime syndicate co-founder Vito Genovese dies of a heart ailment in the Medical Center for Federal Prisons while serving a 15-yr. narcotics term, Springfield, MO 1969
15 **Wednesday**	Last train robbery in the west: while robbing the Sunset Limited near Ontario, CA, George Powers exchanges gunfire with the conductor; both are killed and a passenger injured, 1933
16 **Thursday**	Conrail engineer Ricky Gates pleads guilty to manslaughter, admitting he smoked marijuana minutes before he missed a stop signal and collided head-on with a Amtrak train, killing 16, Towson, MD 1988
17 **Friday**	A fire in the Katie Jane Memorial Home, a nursing home that, despite being only two years old, lacked sprinklers and adequate fire escapes, kills 72, Warrenton, MO 1957
18 **Saturday**	Two PFLP terrorists shoot an Egyptian editor and hijack a plane, but surrender the next day after a gun battle between Egyptian commandos and Cypriot National Guard leaves 15 dead, Nicosia, Cyprus, 1978
19 **Sunday**	An Iberian Airlines 727 on a Madrid/Bilbao flight crashes into Mount Oiz, Spain, killing all 148 on board, 1985

Women are all right in their place, but marry only one at a time
--Johann Hoch (February 23)

20 **Monday**	The "Texarkana Moonlight Murderer", never-caught killer of five, attacks his first Lover's Lane couple, pistol-whipping the man and raping the woman; both of whom survive, Texarkana, TX 1946
21 **Tuesday**	Four days after she is last seen by outsiders, Helen Brach, multi-millionaire widow of candy magnate Frank Brach, disappears after her caretaker claims to drop her off at an airport, Rochester, MN 1984
22 **Wednesday**	Ervil LeBaron, founder of the Lambs of God, a Mormon cult linked to at least 20 murders of enemies and former members, born, Colonia Juarez, Mexico, 1925
23 **Thursday**	Johann Hoch, who had poisoned an estimated 14 of his 43 known wives with arsenic, hanged in the Cook County Jail, Chicago, 1906
24 **Friday**	Shortly after announcing Egypt's declaration of war against Germany and Japan, Prime Minister Ahmed Maher Pasha is shot by pro-Nazi lawyer Mahmoud Essawy for "betrayal of Egypt's true friends", Cairo, 1945
25 **Saturday**	A fire in an architectural firm's office on Fifth Avenue, evidently started by a tobacco pipe and fueled by drafting paper and rubber cement, kills 11 office workers, New York City, 1969
26 **Sunday**	A 20-yr. old model disappears after handing out aspirin samples at the Miami (FL) Grand Prix; she will become the first of nine victims of "Beauty Queen Killer" Chris Wilder's six week spree, 1984

February/March

27 **Monday**	A passenger train engineer either misreads or misses a signal and is hit by an express at a grade crossing; 37 die, Porter, IN 1921
28 **Tuesday**	Heavy metal fan Richard "Nightstalker" Ramirez, convicted killer of 13, born, El Paso, TX 1960
1 **Wednesday**	Dr. Geza de Kaplany, who tortured, mutilated and fatally injured his showgirl wife with scalpels and acid, sentenced to life in prison; nonetheless, he will be paroled 12 years later, San Jose, CA 1963
2 **Thursday**	Tired of being teased about his weight, 12-yr. old Nathan Faris opens fire in his history class, killing one student and injuring another before committing suicide, DeKalb High School, DeKalb, MO 1987
3 **Friday**	In the middle of a bitter custody battle, Charles Rothenberg douses a motel room with kerosene and ignites it, leaving his 6-yr. old son David with 3rd degree burns over 90% of his body, Buena Park, CA 1983
4 **Saturday**	Six months after gunning down a liquor store clerk, 15-yr. old "Devil Child" Sean Sellers conducts a "Satanic Ritual" and kills his final victims, shooting his parents in their sleep, Oklahoma City, OK 1986
5 **Sunday**	Bestselling adventure writer Richard Halliburton (*Royal Road To Romance*) sails from Hong Kong on the *Sea Dragon*, an unseaworthy junk with an inexperienced crew; neither he or the boat is ever seen again, 1939

Looking at those kids and all they suffer makes even my .214 batting average look great.

--Reggie Jackson after pediatric burn ward visit

6 **Monday**	Worst peacetime Channel accident: crew of British Channel ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise* fails to close the bow doors after leaving Zeebrugge, Belgium for Dover; the ferry quickly capsizes, drowning 188, 1987
7 **Tuesday**	After a fire in a coal mine in northern Turkey, miners are ordered back in before the flames are completely extinguished; the two subsequent explosions kill 98, 1983
8 **Wednesday**	Ron "Pigpen" McKernan, charter GRATEFUL DEAD member and the first of three DEAD keyboardists to come to a premature end, dies of liver disease caused by his heavy drinking, Corte Madera, CA 1973
9 **Thursday**	Detroit police burst in on four men playing cards; in the ensuing shooting, one of the cardplayers is killed and the other three wounded, all of whom are off-duty Wayne County deputy sheriffs, Detroit, 1972
10 **Friday**	Andy Gibb, youngest of the bros. Gibb who is best remembered for his solo hit "I Just Want To Be Your Everything", dies penniless of a heart virus, Oxfordshire, England, 1988
11 **Saturday**	The trial of prolific child murderer and incorrigible sexual deviate Albert Fish begins for murdering and eating 10-yr. old Grace Budd; he will be convicted and executed, White Plains, NY 1935
12 **Sunday**	A British Avro-Tudor airliner, chartered by rugby fans attending a championship match in Belfast, crashes while landing at Cardiff, Wales; only three of the 83 aboard survive, 1950

March

13 **Monday**	Winston Mosley rapes and fatally stabs Kitty Genovese; although 38 people witness some or all of the crime, no one calls the police until 35 minutes after the assault begins, Kew Gardens, Queens, NY, 1964
14 **Tuesday**	A military jet cargo plane on a training mission crashes into a factory outside Peking, China, killing the 12-member crew and 32 factory workers, 1979
15 **Wednesday**	A 26-yr. old woman disappears walking to a tavern; she will become Ted Bundy's 16th known victim, Vail, CO 1975
16 **Thursday**	A new Venezuelan Air Lines DC-9 hits a high tension wire after taking off and crashes into a suburban neighborhood, destroying 20 houses; all 84 on the plane die, along with 71 on the ground, Maracaibo, Venezuela, 1969
17 **Friday**	Fans pelt NHL Commissioner Clarence Campbell with garbage and smoke bombs at a game for suspending star player "Rocket" Richard, starting a stampede and 7-hour riot outside that injures 37, Montreal, 1955
18 **Saturday**	Gary "Cellar of Horror" Heidnik, who kept six women chained in his basement as sex slaves, kills his second and final victim while torturing her with electric shocks, Philadelphia, PA 1987
19 **Sunday**	First US Bank Robbery: Edward Smith and an accomplice break into the City Bank in New York City and steal $228,000 in coin and currency, of which only $175,000 is recovered, 1831

Turn off the lights, dumbbell. Then you can see.
--Kitty Genovese witness (March 13)

20 **Monday**	Martha Place, who tried to kill her 17-yr. old stepdaughter with acid and an ax, but wound up smothering her with a pillow, becomes the first woman executed in the electric chair, Sing Sing Prison, NY 1899
21 **Tuesday**	A major earthquake followed by massive fires fanned by high winds all but destroys Tokyo; an estimated 107,000 die, most from the flames, 1857
22 **Wednesday**	Charles Dederich, founder of Synanon, a cult originally praised for its work with drug addicts but best remembered for placing a rattlesnake in a detractor's mailbox, born, Toledo, OH 1913
23 **Thursday**	A gas lamp ignites the on-stage scenery at the Nice Opera House; the ensuing fire and stampede kills 70 and burns the building to the ground, Nice, France 1881
24 **Friday**	The *Exxon Valdez* strikes rocks in Prince William Sound, spilling out 11.2 million gallons of crude oil that contaminates 2000 miles of the Alaska coast, 1989
25 **Saturday**	Letter carrier Donald Mace commits suicide by shooting himself in the head in the lobby of a Poway, CA post office; his suicide note blames his health, finances, and harassment by supervisors, 1989
26 **Sunday**	A major earthquake rocks Caracas, Venezuela on Holy Thursday, heavily damaging 90% of the city and killing 15,000, 1812

March/April

27 **Monday**	A leg of the North Sea oil drilling platform *Alexander L. Keilland* breaks off during a storm, causing the platform to capsize; 123 die, 1980
28 **Tuesday**	20 firemen trying to put out a fire in a warehouse full of scotch whiskey are crushed by a collapsing wall after the whiskey explodes, Glasgow, Scotland, 1960
29 **Wednesday**	"Trailside Killer" Richard Carpenter shoots a 20-yr. old woman and her 21-yr. old boyfriend as they hike on a trail outside Felton, CA; the woman will die, becoming the eighth of Carpenter's 10 victims, 1981
30 **Thursday**	Sicilian Vespers Massacre: Sicilians launch a successful revolt against the French occupation with a riot at a Palermo church, killing 2000 on the first day, 1282
31 **Friday**	Planning to rob all 38 passengers and crew, charter pilot Ernesto Abuloc leaves the cockpit and opens fire in the cabin, but can only kill seven before passengers overpower him, Zamboanga, Philippines, 1977
1 **Saturday**	The last land campaign of World War II begins with the U.S. invading Okinawa; by the time the battle ends in late June, 12,281 Americans and over 107,000 Japanese and civilians will be dead, 1945
2 **Sunday**	Robert Berdella's intended 6th victim, a 22-yr. old hustler, manages to escape from his house after enduring five days of rape and torture; Berdella is arrested the same day, Kansas City, MO 1988

This will never be a civilized country until we expend more money for books than we do for chewing gum.

--Elbert Hubbard

3 **Monday**	During the 1000-mile Mille Milaga sportscar road race, a Lancia hits street car tracks and somersaults into the crowd, killing three adult and seven child spectators and injuring 27 others, Bologna, Italy, 1938
4 **Tuesday**	Overthrown Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto hanged for ordering the murder of three political opponents while in office, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, 1979
5 **Wednesday**	27-yr. old San Diego Padre leftfielder Herb Gorman collapses and dies of a heart attack during a Pacific Coast League baseball game versus the Hollywood Stars, San Diego, 1953
6 **Thursday**	"Butcher of Hanover" Fritz Haarmann, with help of accomplice Hans Grans, lures his 20th (of 28 victims), a 17-yr. old boy, to his apartment to be killed and possibly butchered for resale, Hanover, Germany 1924
7 **Friday**	Race car driver Jim Clark, the first foreigner to win the Indy 500, is killed when he spins into a tree during the European Formula II Championships, Hockenheim, Germany, 1968
8 **Saturday**	The first part of the never captured "Cleveland Butcher"'s 10th (of 12) victims, a woman's lower leg, found floating in a river; although most of her body is eventually found, she is never identified, Cleveland, OH 1938
9 **Sunday**	Dave Prater, half of the soul duo "Sam & Dave" best known for the song "Soul Man", is killed when he loses control of his car on I-75 and hits a tree near Sycamore, GA, 1980

April

10 **Monday**	Stuart Sutcliffe, who christened THE BEATLES and played bass briefly with them during their "Silver Beatles" period, dies of a cerebral hemorrhage a year after leaving the group, Hamburg, Germany 1962
11 **Tuesday**	A double-deck ferry boat hits a sandbar and capsizes in the Irnawaddy River near Rangoon, Burma; 160 drown, 1982
12 **Wednesday**	Capping off a successful coup, Liberian Army troops storm the Presidential palace, killing President William Tolbert and 27 others, Monrovia, Liberia 1980
13 **Thursday**	Massacre of Armitsar: British troops open fire on Indian demonstrators in Armitsar, India, killing an estimated 379 and injuring 1200, 1919
14 **Friday**	A British United DC3 hits trees while attempting to land at Jersey Airport in the Channel Islands; of the 26 on board, only a stewardess survives, England, 1965
15 **Saturday**	Before a Liverpool/Nottingham Forest FA Cup semifinal soccer match, 95 fans are crushed to death against a fence surrounding the field as gatecrashers surge into Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield, England, 1989
16 **Sunday**	Stage & screen actor Paul Kelly kills actor Ray Raymond by pounding his head against a wall after Raymond accuses him of being in love with his wife; he will serve two years for manslaughter, Hollywood, CA 1927

If the desire to kill and the opportunity to kill came always together, who would escape hanging?

--Mark Twain

17 **Monday**	Aided by other disciples of his Reorganized Latter Day Saints cult, leader Jeffrey Lundgren shoots follower Dan Avery, his wife, and their three daughters as a "blood atonement sacrifice", Kirtland, OH 1989
18 **Tuesday**	A North Continent Airlines C-46 hits a hill in the fog on its landing approach to Los Angeles International, killing all 29 passengers and crew, 1952
19 **Wednesday**	The American Revolution begins with fighting at Lexington and Concord, MA that leaves eight colonists dead, 1775
20 **Thursday**	A Swiss charter plane hits a low wall near Nicosia, Cyprus during a thunderstorm, killing 126 of the 130 on board, 1967
21 **Friday**	An express train collides with a bus at a crossing in central Taiwan; no one is injured on the train, but the crash kills 40 of the 82 people on the bus, 1976
22 **Saturday**	Salvador "Cape Man" Agron, head of JD gang "The Vampires" who at 16 became the youngest person sentenced to death in New York for a 1959 double gang killing, dies seven years after his parole, the Bronx, 1986
23 **Sunday**	Former NFL defensive lineman Larry Bethea, a first round draft pick who played for Dallas from 1978 to 1983, shoots himself in the head after coming under suspicion of armed robbery, Newport News, VA 1987

April/May

24 **Monday**	Gerald and Charlene Gallego kidnap a pair of 17-yr. old girls from a Citrus Heights, CA mall, their 5th and 6th of 10 victims, whom they club to death with a hammer after raping them for several hours, 1980
25 **Tuesday**	Dr. John Story ("Doc") convicted and sentenced to 15-20 years on six counts of rape and other sex crimes for having sex with women patients during pelvic exams, Lovell, WY 1985
26 **Wednesday**	A fire at the St. Emilienne Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital kills 79 people, most of whom were patients locked in their rooms or too tranquilized to escape, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1985
27 **Thursday**	A Pan Am 707 crashes on its landing approach to Depasar on Bali, killing all 107 on board, Indonesia, 1974
28 **Friday**	Darci Pierce, who kidnapped a pregnant woman and killed her doing a cesarean with a car key to steal her baby (which she tried to pass off as her own) sentenced to 30 years for murder, Albuquerque, NM 1988
29 **Saturday**	Dachau, the original Nazi concentration camp, where at least 32,000 inmates died during the 12 years it operated, liberated by the US 7th Army, Germany, 1945
30 **Sunday**	Two days after publication of his successful first novel, *Been Down So Long It Looks Up To Me*, folksinger/novelist Richard Farina crashes his motorcycle and dies after a promotional party, Carmel, CA 1966

All men are merciful, and all men are murderers. Doting on dogs, they build their Dachaus.

--Aldous Huxley

1 **Monday**	Leading '30s gangster Alvin "Creepy" Karpis arrested by FBI agents, with J. Edgar Hoover allegedly making the collar personally, New Orleans, LA 1936
2 **Tuesday**	Upset over romantic problems, midget TV and movie actor David Rappaport, who had a recurring role on "L.A. Law", commits suicide in Laurel Canyon Park by shooting himself in the chest, Los Angeles, 1990
3 **Wednesday**	Second Worst San Francisco Disaster: a fire begins in a paint shop that will spread over the next two days to consume 70% of the city and kill 30 people, 1851
4 **Thursday**	Singer and harmonica player Paul Butterfield, founder and leader of THE PAUL BUTTERFIELD BLUES BAND, found dead of a drug overdose, Los Angeles, 1987
5 **Friday**	Film actor Albert Dekker ("Dr. Cyclops", "Death of a Salesman") found handcuffed in his bathtub with a noose around his neck and obscenities scrawled on his body, dead of an autoerotic accident, Hollywood, CA 1968
6 **Saturday**	Albert DeSalvo, the "Boston Strangler", kills his 10th of 13 victims, stabbing a 23-yr. old woman 22 times and tying a stocking around her neck, Cambridge, MA 1963
7 **Sunday**	The largest recorded pre-Civil War tornado touches down at Natchez, MS, sinking at least 60 boats on the Mississippi River and killing 317 people, 1840

May

8 **Monday**	First Major Train Wreck: near Bellevue, France, a locomotive axle breaks on a train returning from a celebration of the King's birthday; the passenger cars telescope into each other and catch fire, killing 53, 1842
9 **Tuesday**	Worst Polish Air Crash: a Polish Airlines Ilyushin-62 jet crashes attempting to land after developing engine trouble minutes after taking off; all 183 on board are killed, Warsaw, 1987
10 **Wednesday**	Two women members of Ervil Lebaron's Lambs of God, a polygamous Mormon cult, shoot and kill Dr. Rullon Allred, the leader of a larger, less violent polygamist sect, Murray City, UT, 1981
11 **Thursday**	Chang and Eng, the original Siamese twins, who were linked together at the chest, born, Meklong, Siam, 1811
12 **Friday**	A-bomb spy Julius Rosenberg, who was executed with his wife in 1953 for selling U.S. A-bomb secrets to the U.S.S.R., born, New York City, 1918
13 **Saturday**	Police end a 12-hour siege of the MOVE cult headquarters by dropping a small bomb on the house; the fire kills 11 of the 13 in the house, including five children, and destroys 61 nearby homes, Philadelphia, PA 1985
14 **Sunday**	Police pull "Freeway Killer" Randy Kraft over for drunk driving and find the body of a strangled 25-yr. old Marine in the passenger seat; Kraft will be linked to 45 murders and convicted of 16, Mission Viejo, CA 1983

That's the last time they'll call the commissioner a motherfucker.
--Philadelphia cop (May 13

15 **Monday**	The last two teen survivors of the Oregon Episcopal High School Mt. Hood trip rescued after spending three days lost in the snow; of the 18 people on the trip, nine died, Oregon, 1986
16 **Tuesday**	Dr. H. H. Holmes, aka Hermann Mudgett, killer of at least 27 women in his Chicago "Murder Castle" in the 1890s, born, Gilmanton, NH 1860
17 **Wednesday**	Fundamentalist cleric and leader of Iran's Islamic revolution Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeini born, Khomein, Persia, 1900
18 **Thursday**	Michael Ryan, who will become England's worst mass murderer when he shoots 16 in the 1987 "Hungerford Massacre", born, Hungerford, England, 1960
19 **Friday**	A methane explosion in the Mather Coal Mine kills 195 of the 273 miners working at the time; some of the survivors are trapped for five days before being rescued, Mather, PA 1928
20 **Saturday**	A car plunges into the crowd by the side of the road during the Grand Prix des Frontiers race, killing four and injuring 13 spectators, Chimay, Belgium, 1956
21 **Sunday**	The Black Liberation Army, a violent Panther splinter group, stage their first successful ambush, gunning down two patrolmen in Manhattan; they will go on to kill at least three more cops and injure several others, 1971

May/June

22 **Monday**	In one of the worst U.S. civilian helicopter accidents, a passenger helicopter bound for Disneyland from LAX disintegrates in mid-air and crashes near Paramount, CA, killing all 23 on board, 1968
23 **Tuesday**	South Moluccan terrorists seize a passenger train, starting a 20-day stand-off that will end when marines storm the train, killing six of the terrorists and two hostages, Assen, Holland, 1977
24 **Wednesday**	Franz Ziereis, the last commandant of the Mauthausen concentration camp where an estimated 122,000 inmates came to their end, dies in American custody of injuries sustained while being captured, Linz, Austria, 1945
25 **Thursday**	Joel Steinberg, who was catapulted into notoriety when he beat his illegally adopted 6-yr. old daughter Lisa to death in 1987 in New York's sensational "Torture Tot" case, born, the Bronx, NY 1941
26 **Friday**	Labor contractor Juan Corona arrested after police dig up a grave holding the bodies of nine migrant workers in an orchard near his house; he will be convicted of 25 murders, Yuba City, CA 1971
27 **Saturday**	Wayne Williams, who was convicted of two of the Atlanta Child Killings and suspected of most of the others, born, Atlanta, GA 1958
28 **Sunday**	World War II hero and western movie star Audie Murphy and five other people killed when their small plane crashes in a thunderstorm near Roanoke, VA 1971

So long as there are prisons, men will find a way to escape from them.
--Edward Hale Bierstadt

29 **Monday**	Edward Marks, the first apprehended mid-'80s drug tamperer arrested for lacing Smith Kline medicines (Contac, etc.) with rat poison to lower the stock price; although no one dies, he will get 27 years, Orlando, FL 1986
30 **Tuesday**	Shortly before the start of the Indy 500 car race, a temporary scaffolding collapses under the weight of over 100 spectators, killing two and injuring at least 70, Indianapolis, IN 1960
31 **Wednesday**	Biggest Death Row Escape: six condemned men led by Linwood Briley overpower guards, steal uniforms, and escape Mecklenberg Correctional Center, but all are re-captured within three weeks, Boydton, VA 1984
1 **Thursday**	Joseph Pujol, who, under the stage name "Le Petomane", was one of the leading nightclub performers in pre-World War I France with an act based on his amazing ability to break wind, born, Marseilles, France, 1857
2 **Friday**	Luis Monge, who killed his wife and three of their ten children, dies in the Colorado gas chamber in the last U.S. execution until 1977, Colorado State Penitentiary, Canon City, CO 1967
3 **Saturday**	18-yr. old Phil Staughan hits the rocks with a commandeered maintenance boat in Disneyland's Rivers of America and falls out and drowns; he is the 7th Disney death and 2nd to drown in the river, Anaheim 1983
4 **Sunday**	Former DEAD BOYS and LORDS OF THE NEW CHURCH singer Stiv Bators hit by a car while crossing the street; although he walks away, he dies of internal injuries several hours later, Paris, France 1990

June

5 **Monday**	The Grand Teton dam on a tributary of the Snake River fails while being filled for the first time, flooding 300 square miles in eastern Idaho and killing 11, 1976
6 **Tuesday**	"Red Ripper" Andrei Chikatilo lures a 12-yr. old girl into the woods outside Shakhty, USSR where she will become his third of a claimed 55 victims, 1982
7 **Wednesday**	In the biggest single military explosion with conventional ordnance, the British detonate one million tons of Ammonal in 24 tunnels 100' underneath the German lines on Messines Ridge near Ypres, Belgium, 1917
8 **Thursday**	The second floor of a two-story building collapses during a wedding dance, killing 17 celebrants, Madrid, Spain, 1956
9 **Friday**	Former Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton convicted of extortion, conspiracy, and mail fraud in connection with sale of liquor licenses while in office; he will get three years and a $11,000 fine, Nashville, 1981
10 **Saturday**	Excommunicated Mormon and former Eagle Scout Arthur Bishop, who raped and killed five pre-teen boys in the early '80s, executed by lethal injection, Utah State Prison, Point of the Mount, UT 1988
11 **Sunday**	In less than four hours, the First San Francisco Vigilance Committee tries, convicts, and hangs their first victim, John Jenks, for stealing a safe, San Francisco, 1851

I'm glad they caught me because I would go do it again.
--Arthur Bishop (June 10)

12 **Monday**	David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz sentenced to six 25-to-life terms for shooting 13 people, six fatally, over the course of two years, Brooklyn, NY 1978
13 **Tuesday**	Former Barker/Karpis gang member Arthur "Doc" Barker dies of a fractured skull and bullet wound to his leg suffered in his attempted escape from Alcatraz, San Francisco, CA 1939
14 **Wednesday**	Killers hired by Judge Joseph Peel, who was being investigated for corruption, drag Judge Charles Chillingworth and wife from their home, wrap them in chains, and drown them at sea, Manalapan, FL 1955
15 **Thursday**	Six British soldiers killed by an IRA bomb planted in their car, Lisburn, Northern Ireland, 1988
16 **Friday**	PRETENDERS lead guitarist James Honeyman-Scott dies of a drug overdose, London, 1982
17 **Saturday**	19-yr. old Guy Cleveland becomes the second person killed at Disneyland after he is struck by a train and dragged 30 feet trying to sneak into the park on the monorail track, Anaheim, 1966
18 **Sunday**	Brokerage chairman Kazuo Nugano, suspected of defrauding investors of millions, hacked to death by two men with bayonets in front of a crowd of journalists who make no move to interfere, Osaka, Japan 1985

June/July

19 **Monday**	A railroad bridge over Custer Creek near Miles City, MT, weakened by a recent flash flood, collapses under the weight of a passenger train; an estimated 47 drown, 1938
20 **Tuesday**	A Line Aeropostal Venezolana Lockheed Super Constellation crashes into the Atlantic Ocean off Asbury Park, NJ, killing all 74 on board, 1956
21 **Wednesday**	Red Army Faction terrorists shoot Professor Remo Cacciafest, dean of the Rome University Economic Department, in the legs during a lecture for teaching students to be part of an immoral society, Rome, Italy, 1977
22 **Thursday**	The Cuyahoga River catches fire just downstream from Cleveland, OH; it burns for 20 minutes and damages two railroad bridges, 1969
23 **Friday**	19-yr. old Lisa Collins attempts to commit suicide by jumping off the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, but instead of the span's 50th suicide, she is the first to survive the plunge, Tacoma, WA 1983
24 **Saturday**	Sniper Charles Whitman who, after shooting his wife and mother went on to pick off 16 more people from the Texas Tower on the University of Texas campus in 1966, born, Lake Worth, FL 1941
25 **Sunday**	An explosion at the Aerlex Corp. fireworks factory kills 21 workers, Hallett, OK 1985

There will never be a trout stream flowing through downtown Cleveland.
--Ohio official (June 22)

26 **Monday**	Police interrupt 17-yr. old William "Catch me before I kill more" Heirens in the middle of a burglary; he will be convicted of killing two women and dismembering a 6-yr. old girl, Chicago, 1946
27 **Tuesday**	Commemorating the 144th anniversary of the lynching of Joseph Smith, members of the Lambs of God, a Mormon cult, shoot and kill three men and an 8-yr. old girl in three different Texas towns at 4:00 PM, 1988
28 **Wednesday**	Mobster Joseph Columbo shot at the "Unity Day" rally of his Italian American Civil Rights League; the gunman is immediately killed, but Columbo remains a vegetable until his 1978 death, New York City, 1971
29 **Thursday**	The brakes of a French commuter train fail, causing it to crash into another commuter train stopped at a station; 56 die, Paris, 1988
30 **Friday**	After completing a 23 day mission on the *Salyut* space station, all three of the *Soyuz 11* cosmonauts suffocate when an air valve in their capsule opens prematurely during re-entry, 1971
1 **Saturday**	German troops occupy the Channel Islands without firing a shot, the only territory on the British home islands taken by the Germans during World War II, 1940
2 **Sunday**	A pedestrian overpass railing breaks, causing a panic among Muslim pilgrims emerging from a pedestrian tunnel below; 1,426 are trampled to death in the ensuing stampede, Mecca, Saudi Arabia 1990

July

3 **Monday**	The newly constructed steamship *Daphne* capsizes minutes after being launched into the Clyde River, drowning 195 of the 200 shipyard workers on board, Glasgow, Scotland 1883
4 **Tuesday**	A passenger train, ordered to wait on a siding while three excursion trains returning from a "Know Nothing" party rally pass, pulls onto the track after the first one; 34 die, Riderwood, MD 1854
5 **Wednesday**	An estimated 390 people drown after a passenger barge helmsman dozes off and hits a sandbar in the Luapula River on the Zaire/Zambia border, 1987
6 **Thursday**	A series of gas explosions on the British North Sea oil platform *Piper Alpha* kills 167, 1988
7 **Friday**	17-yr. old Ricky Kasso, who "sacrificed" a teen friend to the devil in the "Say You Love Satan" murder, hangs himself in his cell shortly after his arrest, Riverhead, NY 1984
8 **Saturday**	Alton Coleman and Debra Brown rape a 10-yr. old girl, strangle her and her mother and loot their home; they are the 4th and 5th of eight victims of the pair's 11-week rape/robbery/murder spree, Toledo, OH 1984
9 **Sunday**	A small explosion followed by a fire, allegedly the result of a freebase cocaine accident, leaves comedian Richard Pryor with burns over 50% of his body, Sherman Oaks, CA 1980

It matters not if one is guilty as long as someone is found guilty.
--Oscar Wilde

10 **Monday**	Daniel Lynam starts a shooting spree by killing his wife and their two infant children; he goes on to shoot both his parents and his wife's parents before committing suicide the next day, Federal Way, WA 1987
11 **Tuesday**	On the Greek ferry *City of Poros* returning to Athens from Aegina, three Palestinian terrorists open fire with machine guns and grenades, killing nine and injuring 80 before escaping in the confusion, 1988
12 **Wednesday**	Brooklyn Dodger fan Robert Joyce, upset over being teased about a loss to the New York Giants, runs out of a bar, gets a gun and returns to kill the bartender and a Giants fan, Brooklyn, NY 1938
13 **Thursday**	First "Brides in the Bath" murder: to inherit her money, George Smith drowns his wife in a bathtub and makes it look like a heart attack, Kent, England; he will kill two others the same way before being caught, 1912
14 **Friday**	In the early morning hours, Richard Speck stabs, strangles, and rapes the eight of the nine student nurses he took captive late the previous evening; Chicago, IL 1966
15 **Saturday**	R. Gene Simmons, who killed 14 relatives and two co-workers in a week-long Christmas 1987 spree, born, Chicago, 1940
16 **Sunday**	Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy born, Bow, NH 1821

July

17 **Monday**	Charlotte Corday, who stabbed Reign of Terror leader Jean Paul Marat in his bathtub, guillotined for the murder, Paris, 1793
18 **Tuesday**	TV actress Rebecca Schaeffer ("My Sister Sam") shot and killed in her apartment by obsessed fan John Bardo, Los Angeles, 1989
19 **Wednesday**	In the largest armored car robbery in U.S. history, 11 members of The Order, a white supremacist group, hold up a Brinks truck outside Ukiah, CA, escaping with $3.6 million, 1984
20 **Thursday**	Ex-con Murl Daniels shoots a prison guard, his wife, and his daughter in their home; he will kill three other people during his month-long crime spree, Mansfield, OH 1948
21 **Friday**	In a precedent-setting case, Norman Williams, the last man publicly hanged in Oregon, is convicted of killing his wife and mother-in-law even though their bodies are never found, The Dalles, 1905
22 **Saturday**	Mehmet Ali Agca convicted of attempting to assassinate Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's square; he will be sentenced to life in prison, the first year to be spent in solitary confinement, Rome, 1981
23 **Sunday**	During the intermission of a Berlin Ballet performance at the Metropolitan Opera, stagehand Craig Crimmins rapes violinist Helen Hagnes backstage and throws her down an airshaft, New York City, 1980

Death on the guillotine is only a bit of sleight-of-hand that makes life vanish: a trick with a goblet in which there's a head displayed.

--Alexander Dumas *fils*

24 **Monday**	An oil soaked mop catches fire in the basement of a Little Sisters of the Poor home for the aged, killing 48, Pittsburgh, PA 1931
25 **Tuesday**	Miners rushing to get in out of the cold at the Western Deep Levels Gold Mine near Johannesburg, South Africa push those in front down the stairs, killing 50, 1967
26 **Wednesday**	Vince Leapheart, who will change his name to John Africa and start the MOVE cult that will be involved in bloody shootout with Philadelphia police in 1985, born, Philadelphia, PA 1931
27 **Thursday**	A typhoon wipes out the waterfront and heavily damages Canton and Whampoa, China, killing 40,000, 1862
28 **Friday**	Maximilien Robespierre, chief architect of the Reign of Terror, guillotined along with 21 other French Revolution leaders, Paris, 1794
29 **Saturday**	The Bishop of Nantes publishes the results of a secret inquest, making public for the first time the charges against Gilles de Rais of killing 140 children and making pacts with demons, France, 1440
30 **Sunday**	A plane carrying the Mexican Equestrian team's horses hits a powerline during take-off and crashes into a restaurant, killing all 18 horses, one of the 10 people on board and 53 more on the ground, Mexico City, 1987

July/August

31 **Monday**	In the worst single-car accident of its day, a car crashes into a cliff and catches fire near Whitesburg, KY, killing four adults and seven children, 1954
1 **Tuesday**	Four high-ranking advertising executives, including the president of the firm that handled Reagan's 1980 campaign, killed when their raft capsizes in the rapids on the Chilko River near Alexis Creek, B.C., 1987
2 **Wednesday**	A Delta Airlines Lockheed Tristar crashes while attempting to land at Dallas, killing 132 of the 162 on board plus one on the ground, TX, 1985
3 **Thursday**	A 15-yr. old boy, the 33rd and final victim of "Man With the Candy" Dean Corll, disappears; his strangled body will be found buried in Corll's boatshed, Houston, 1973
4 **Friday**	Joseph Vacher, the French "Jack the Ripper", captured trying to attack a woman outside Bois de Pelleries; he will confess to 11 mutilation murders, mostly of teen shepherds and shepherdesses, France, 1897
5 **Saturday**	An engineer misses three stop signals and smashes his train into another one taking on water, killing 32 passengers and one bystander; although he jumps free, he impales himself on spikes, Sulphur Springs, MO 1922
6 **Sunday**	First Electric Chair Execution: William Kemmler, who killed his wife with a hatchet, dies in the chair in Auburn Prison, Auburn, NY 1890

She deserved it.

--William Kemmler's reason (August 6)

7 **Monday**	The Love Canal subdivision of Niagara Falls, NY built on the site of a former Hooker Chemical Co. chemical dump, formally declared a federal disaster area by President Carter, 1978
8 **Tuesday**	A walkway at the top of the stands of the Baker Bowl collapses during a Phillies/Braves baseball doubleheader when fans rush up to watch a brawl on the street below; 12 die, Philadelphia, 1903
9 **Wednesday**	A group of Hatfields tie three McCoys who'd killed a Hatfield in an election day brawl the previous day to a tree and shoot them; the killings send the legendary feud into high gear, Pike County, KY 1882
10 **Thursday**	"Acid Bath" murderer John Haigh, who confessed to killing and drinking the blood of nine people and dissolving the bodies with acid, hanged, Wandsworth Prison, London, 1949
11 **Friday**	Former New York Stock Exchange president Richard Whitney paroled from Sing-Sing prison after serving 40 months for stealing $214,000 from clients of his investment firm, NY, 1941
12 **Saturday**	The rudder falls off a Japan Airlines 747 shortly after takeoff, causing the plane to crash into Mt. Osutaka outside Tokyo; 520 of the 524 onboard die, 1985
13 **Sunday**	A series of major earthquakes in central Peru and Ecuador kill an estimated 20,000 people, 1868

August

14 **Monday**	A streetcar collides with a switching locomotive at a grade crossing; the majority of 14 dead, most of whom are children, are scalded to death by the steam, Parkersburg, WV 1919
15 **Tuesday**	Gudrun Ensslin, a co-founder of the German RAF terrorist group (aka Baader-Meinhof gang) and one of the group's chief ideological brains, born, Bartolomae, Germany, 1940
16 **Wednesday**	8-yr. old Graeme Thorne, the first Australian child kidnapped for ransom when his father won $250,000 in a lottery, found suffocated; his kidnapper Stephen Bradley would be soon caught, Seaforth, Australia, 1960
17 **Thursday**	Branch Davidian cult leader David Koresh, who will die along with 85 of his followers in a 1993 fire as police end a 51-day siege by storming their Waco, TX, compound, born as Vernon Howell, Houston, TX 1959
18 **Friday**	Hospital orderly Donald Harvey pleads guilty to poisoning 24 mainly elderly people (21 in one year) while working in Daniel Drake Memorial Hospital, Cincinnati, OH 1987
19 **Saturday**	A horsecar drives off the open Hamilton Avenue drawbridge in the dark and falls into Gowanus Creek, killing two passengers, Brooklyn, NY 1863
20 **Sunday**	Sherman McCrary and son-in-law Carl Taylor kidnap a 20-yr. old woman from a donut shop; she will become their second of at least seven victims, Lakewood, CO 1971

1200 people commit suicide every year because they do not want to die away in the service of capital.

--Baader-Meinhof pamphlet (August 15)

21 **Monday**	The Great Idaho Fire finally put out after burning three million acres and killing 85 people in over 11 days, 1910
22 **Tuesday**	Black Panther co-founder Huey Newton shot and killed on the street by a low-level drug dealer, Oakland, CA 1989
23 **Wednesday**	Origin of "Stockholm Syndrome": Jan-Erik Olsson walks into a bank with a machine gun and takes hostages, some of whom will inexplicably bond with him during their six-day captivity, Stockholm, Sweden 1973
24 **Thursday**	In one of the handful of murders he will be convicted of, Henry Lee Lucas kills his teen common-law wife and cuts up her body into "teeny little pieces", Denton, TX 1982
25 **Friday**	A small plane crashes near Lewiston, ME, killing all eight on board; the dead include 13-yr. old Samantha Smith, who vaulted to fame in 1983 when she wrote a letter to USSR Premier Andropov asking for peace, 1985
26 **Saturday**	Chester Wicker executed by lethal injection for kidnapping a 22-yr. old woman in 1980 and burying her alive, Texas State Prison, Huntsville, TX 1986
27 **Sunday**	Former BEATLES manager Brian Epstein dies of an overdose of prescription sleeping pills; the death will be ruled accidental, London 1967

August/September

28 **Monday**	Three Italian jets collide in midair during an airshow at a USAF base sending one plunging into the crowd; all three pilots die, along with 70 spectators, Ramstein, West Germany, 1988
29 **Tuesday**	After she is charged with swindling $8.7 million from followers, police find the bodies of cult leader Park Soon Ja and 31 followers in a factory, evidently the result of a suicide pact, South Korea, 1987
30 **Wednesday**	Former movie star Jean Seberg ("Breathless", "Airport") commits suicide in a parked car by mixing pills and alcohol; her body will remain undiscovered for a week, Paris, France 1979
31 **Thursday**	A 7.8 magnitude earthquake in northeastern Iran levels dozens of villages, destroying at least 60,000 buildings and killing 6000, 1968
1 **Friday**	Arms protester Brian Wilson, trying to block an ordnance train, is run over; one of his legs is severed and the other so seriously injured it is later amputated, Concord Naval Weapons Station, CA 1987
2 **Saturday**	A fire, allegedly set by Communists, begins that will burn down most of Chunking, China, destroying 10,000 buildings and killing 1700 people, 1949
3 **Sunday**	A streetcar inexplicably stops at a train crossing where it is hit by a shuttle train returning from the nearby World's Fair, killing six, St. Louis, MO 1904

I can't deal with a world that beats the weak, puts down blacks and women and massacres infants.

--Jean Seberg's suicide note (August 30)

4 **Monday**	A 14-yr. old black boy disappears while riding his bike; when his badly decomposed body is found three weeks later, he becomes the third victim attributed to the Atlanta Child Killer, 1979
5 **Tuesday**	Legendary American outlaw Jesse James born, Centerville, MO 1847
6 **Wednesday**	The day after Australian Father's Day, Clifford Bartholomew shoots and beats to death his estranged wife, their seven children, and her sister and child, New Hope, Australia, 1971
7 **Thursday**	Jean-Baptiste Troppmann stabs and kills the eldest son of the Knick family, his second victim, in his month long campaign to kill all eight members of the family to steal their fortune, Paris, 1869
8 **Friday**	A bomb, believed to be planted by the PLO, explodes aboard a TWA 707 on a Tel Aviv/New York flight over the Ionian Sea; all 88 on board are killed, 1974
9 **Saturday**	The body of 7-yr. old Annie Lemberger, victim of one of Wisconsin's most famous unsolved murders, found floating in Lake Monona days after she was kidnapped from her bedroom, Madison, WI 1911
10 **Sunday**	The first victim of Madeline de Brinvilliers, her nobleman father, dies of poison administered by his daughter; she will go on to poison an estimated 50 more victims, Offemont, France 1666

September

11 **Monday**	Reggae singer Peter Tosh shot and killed in his home by a burglar, Kingston, Jamaica 1987
12 **Tuesday**	Prolific serial killer Donald "Pee Wee" Gaskins kills his final victim, a fellow death row inmate, with a bomb concealed in a coffee cup, Columbia Correctional Institution, Columbia, SC 1982
13 **Wednesday**	Princess Grace Kelly of Monaco loses control of her car on a mountain road near La Turbie, France, and plunges 120' into a ravine; she is fatally injured, but daughter Stephanie, although hurt, survives, 1982
14 **Thursday**	In the most famous unsolved murder of the '20s, Reverend Edward Hall and his mistress, choir singer Eleanor Mills, are shot and dumped, along with a few love letters, under a crab apple tree outside Somerville, NJ 1922
15 **Friday**	Jeffrey Dahmer picks up his second (of 17) victim, a 28-yr. old man, whom he will kill and butcher in a Milwaukee hotel room, 1987
16 **Saturday**	Kidnap victim Steven Stayner ("I Know My First Name Is Steven"), who set a record by escaping from pedophile Ken Parnell after seven years of captivity, dies in a motorcycle accident, Merced, CA 1989
17 **Sunday**	Bloodiest Day of the Civil War: the Union Army stops Lee's invasion of Maryland at Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, MD; 4800 troops are killed and 19,000 wounded, 1862

...on the first occasion when Jeff actually set out to have sexual relations with another person, he carried a baseball bat with him.
--father Lionel Dahmer (September 15)

18 **Monday**	A vigilance committee takes five Chinese men accused of killing a leading local merchant from the custody of the deputy sheriff and hangs them outside of Pierce, ID 1885
19 **Tuesday**	A 7.8 magnitude earthquake, followed by an aftershock with a magnitude of 7.5 the next day, hits Mexico City, killing and estimated 7,000, 1985
20 **Wednesday**	A brakeman inexplicably throws a switch that sends crack passenger train "The Argonaut" off the main track onto a siding occupied by "The Californian"; the crash kills 11 passengers and crew, Tortuga, CA 1938
21 **Thursday**	The Angel Moroni appears to Joseph Smith for the first time, telling him of the golden plates on which is written the *Book of Mormon*, Palmyra, NY 1823
22 **Friday**	Wilhelm Keitel, chief of Hitler's personal military staff who was executed at Nuremberg for war crimes, born, Helmscherode, Germany, 1882
23 **Saturday**	Leading '60s black militant and "Soledad Brother" George Jackson, who was killed in a bloody 1971 San Quentin escape attempt, born, Chicago, IL 1941
24 **Sunday**	A train carrying the Sells Brothers Circus loses its brakes on a grade and rolls out of control, eventually derailing and killing six near Paint Lick, KY 1882

September/October

25 **Monday**	"Mr. Excitement" Jackie Wilson collapses of a stroke and a heart attack on stage, allegedly while singing his hit "Lonely Teardrops"; he never regains consciousness and dies eight years later, Cherry Hill, NJ 1975
26 **Tuesday**	Former mental patient James Wilson shoots up the cafeteria and a third grade classroom at Oakland Elementary School; two children die and seven others, along with two adults, are injured, Greenwood, SC 1988
27 **Wednesday**	After his father dies, Rory Storm (aka Alan Caldwell), former leader of Ringo Starr's original band RORY STORM AND THE HURRICANES, and his mother overdose on sleeping pills in a suicide pact, Liverpool, 1972
28 **Thursday**	"Rawhide" TV star Eric Fleming drowns when his canoe capsizes during the filming of a movie near the headwaters of the Amazon in the Haullaga River, Peru, 1966
29 **Friday**	A tornado hits the wealthy West End district of St. Louis, MO, heavily damaging six square miles and killing 85, 1927
30 **Saturday**	A Hungarian airliner crashes into the sea while attempting to land in Beirut, Lebanon, killing all 60 on board, 1975
1 **Sunday**	Bonnie Parker, the female half of the notorious '30s duo ("Bonnie and Clyde") born, Rowena, TX 1910

Trying to determine who committed the first lynching is like trying to determine who built the first fire.

--George Burrows

2 **Monday**	While transporting troops, the *Queen Mary*, the then largest ship in the world, rams escorting cruiser *Curaco* in broad daylight off the Irish coast cutting it in half; 338 of the 449 aboard the *Curaco* drown, 1942
3 **Tuesday**	An American Overseas Airlines DC4 crashes into a hill and explodes near Stephenville, Newfoundland killing all 39 on board in the worst commercial air crash of its time, 1946
4 **Wednesday**	A freight train derails and crashes into a nearby beauty parlor and hardware store after being hit by an out-of-control lumber truck; the truck driver and four bystanders are killed, West Newton, PA 1955
5 **Thursday**	Five members of the Dalton gang attempt to rob two banks simultaneously in Coffeyville, KS; in the ensuing shooting, four of the robbers (including two Daltons) and four citizens are killed, 1892
6 **Friday**	Only eight days after kidnapping and killing 6-yr. old Bobby Greenlease, police arrest Carl Austin Hall and Bonnie Emily Heady separately, St. Louis, MO 1953
7 **Saturday**	George Saxton, brother-in-law of President William McKinley, shot and killed on his girlfriend's doorstep; one of his former girlfriends is tried but acquitted and the murder never solved, Canton, OH 1898
8 **Sunday**	Farmer Stanley Graham shoots four policemen and a passerby when they attempt to confiscate his guns; he remains at large for 12 days and kills two more despite a massive manhunt, Koiterangi, New Zealand 1941

October

9 **Monday**	On a camping honeymoon in rural Wisconsin, William Coffey beats his wife to death with a baseball bat and a hammer, cuts her body into 15 pieces, and buries her outside Platteville, WI 1927
10 **Tuesday**	Quebec separatists kidnap provincial Labor Minister Pierre Laporte from in front of his home; he will be found strangled eight days later after the government refuses to pay a $500,000 ransom, St. Lambert, Canada 1970
11 **Wednesday**	James Huberty, who shot 21 people in a 1984 rampage at a McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, CA, born, Canton, OH 1942
12 **Thursday**	Jon-Erik Hexum, a regular on TV spy show "Cover Up", playfully shoots himself with a blank-loaded pistol on the set; the concussion forces a chunk of his skull into his brain; he dies six days later, Los Angeles, 1984
13 **Friday**	An Aeroflot Ilyushin-62 crashes near Krasnaya Polyana, USSR, shortly after taking off from Moscow, killing all 176 on board, 1972
14 **Saturday**	A coal dust explosion followed by a fire kills 439 miners in the Universal Colliery, Sengenhydd, Wales, 1913
15 **Sunday**	George Hennard, who set the current mass-shooting record of 23 in his 1991 rampage at Luby's restaurant in Kileen, TX, born, Houston, TX 1956

Let's see if I got one for me.

--last words of Jon-Erik Hexum (October 12)

16 **Monday**	Chinese troop ship *Kuang Yuang* catches fire while anchored at Kiukiang, China; the flames trigger a munitions explosion that kills a estimated 1200 soldiers, 1926
17 **Tuesday**	Army private James Rowe is hanged for murdering a fellow solider, the first of 142 American servicemen executed during World War II, Fort Huachuca, AZ 1942
18 **Wednesday**	After receiving an incorrect signal, an express crashes into the rear of a stalled immigrant train; wreckage blocks adjacent track where it is hit by another express; nine die, Hackensack, NJ 1885
19 **Thursday**	Within two hours, an Indian Airlines 737 crashes while landing in the fog at Ahmadabad, killing 130 of 135 on board and a Vayudoot Airlines Fokker F-27 hits a mountain near Gauhati, killing all 34, India, 1988
20 **Friday**	James "Cowboy" Autry shoots and kills a convenience store clerk and a bystander while stealing a six-pack of beer; he will become the second man executed by lethal injection, Port Arthur, TX 1980
21 **Saturday**	"Gorilla Murderer" Earle Nelson strangles and rapes a 37-yr. old boardinghouse landlady, his eighth of 22 victims, Portland, OR 1926
22 **Sunday**	Daredevil "The Great Peters", whose act consisted of jumping off a 75' platform with a elastic rope around his neck, killed during a performance of the Sells-Floto Circus when the rope breaks, St. Louis, MO 1943

October/November

23 **Monday**	Second Son of Sam Attack: David Berkowitz opens fire on a 20-yr. old man and 18-yr. old woman sitting in a parked car in Queens, NY; although he empties his gun, both survive, the woman escaping uninjured, 1976
24 **Tuesday**	Twins Ronnie and Reggie Kray, the leading British gangsters of the '60s, born in London's East End, 1933
25 **Wednesday**	A gang of five burglars rob the Syracuse Brinks office of $433,000, blasting into the vault with an anti-tank gun; none of the money is ever recovered and only leader Joel Singer captured, NY 1965
26 **Thursday**	Marc Lepine, who shot 14 women in a classroom at the University of Montreal Engineering School in 1989, born as Gamil Gharbi, Montreal, 1964
27 **Friday**	Executed German war criminal Fritz Sauckel, head of the Third Reich's forced labor program, born, Hassfurt am Main, Germany 1894
28 **Saturday**	An earthquake in central Japan destroys 200,000 homes, 10,000 bridges and kills 7300 people, 1891
29 **Sunday**	A British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines DC6 crashes on its landing approach to the San Francisco airport, killing all 19 on board, including concert pianist William Kapell, 1953

We pay for our beer. Now it's time for Autry to pay for his.
--demonstrator's sign at James Autry's execution (October 20)

30 **Monday**	The USSR sets off the largest nuclear explosion in history, detonating a 50 megaton bomb (2600 times the Hiroshima bomb) in an atmospheric test over the Novaya Zemla Islands, 1961
31 **Tuesday**	A dispatcher's error causes an excursion train carrying the Purdue football team and fans to a game to crash into a coal train backing onto the tracks, killing 16, including nine players, Indianapolis, 1903
1 **Wednesday**	After their leader dies, seven women members of the Friends of Truth cult commit suicide on a Tokyo beach by dousing themselves with kerosene and self-immolating, Japan, 1986
2 **Thursday**	Before a Congressional subcommittee, Columbia University professor Charles Van Doren confesses that he won $129,000 on TV quiz shows with the help of answers provided by network staff, Washington DC, 1959
3 **Friday**	First DC10 fatality: an engine explodes on a National DC10 at 39,000 feet; the fuselage ruptures and the cabin decompress, sucking a passenger out a blown window, Albuquerque, NM 1973
4 **Saturday**	Actress Dominique Dunne ("Poltergeist") dies five days after boyfriend John Sweeny throttles her into a coma, Los Angeles, CA 1982
5 **Sunday**	JDL founder Rabbi Meir David Kahane shot and killed after giving a talk to a Zionist group in a New York City hotel; accused assassin El Sayyid Nosair is found not guilty of the shooting, but convicted on other charges, 1990

November

6 **Monday**	A 7.6 magnitude earthquake in China's Yunnan province near the Burmese border kills at least 938 people, 1988
7 **Tuesday**	David Hendricks kills his wife and their three pre-teen children with an ax and a knife; although he tries to make it look like a burglary, he is quickly implicated, Bloomington, IL 1983
8 **Wednesday**	John Reginald Christie strangles and rapes his third of eight victims, the wife of his upstairs neighbor at 10 Rillington Place, explaining her death to him as an abortion gone wrong, London, 1949
9 **Thursday**	US Army private Eddie Leonski, the "Brownout Strangler" of Melbourne who killed three women while stationed there, becomes the first foreigner hanged in Pentridge Gaol, Melbourne, Australia, 1942
10 **Friday**	Apparently retaliating for a Baader-Meinhof hunger strike death, June 2 Movement terrorists shoot West Berlin High Court president Gunter von Drenkman as he celebrates his birthday at home, West Berlin, 1974
11 **Saturday**	A drunk guard leaves a candle burning on a train carrying 33 tons of dynamite in the Iri, South Korea train station; the blast damages 70% of the city's buildings and kills 57, 1977
12 **Sunday**	"Barfly Killer" Carroll Edward Cole picks up a 32-yr. old woman in a Dallas bar and strangles her, his seventh of at least eight victims, 1980

It was a good place to lead my kind of life. There was lots of places to bury bodies.

--Donald "Pee Wee" Gaskins on rural life (November 15)

13 **Monday**	A bus blows a tire in the fog and skids into a lake in Mexico City, killing 39 passengers, 1987
14 **Tuesday**	Workers repairing the world's then largest natural gas tank at the Equitable Gas Co. trigger a massive explosion in the allegedly empty tank that sets off two other tanks and kills 28, Pittsburgh, PA 1927
15 **Wednesday**	Serial killer Donald "Pee Wee" Gaskins arrested for contributing to the delinquency of a minor; while being held, police start digging up bodies; he will be convicted of nine of his dozens of claimed killings, Sumter, SC 1975
16 **Thursday**	Police shoot and kill two student demonstrators while clearing out an occupied administration building at Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA 1972
17 **Friday**	The body of former movie star ("Lorna Doone") John Bowers washes up on a beach two days after he rented a boat and evidently carried out his frequent threat to "sail into the sunset", Los Angeles, 1936
18 **Saturday**	"Gorilla Murderer" Earle Nelson strangles and rapes a 55-yr. old boardinghouse landlady, his 9th of 22 victims, San Francisco, 1926
19 **Sunday**	Star Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Lance Rentzel exposes himself to a 10-yr. old girl, University Park, TX 1970

November/December

20 **Monday**	Police arrest Lawrence Bittaker for parole violations and Ray Norris for an unrelated rape to hold them as they gather evidence of the pair's sadistic rape-murder of five teen girls, Los Angeles, 1979
21 **Tuesday**	Anarchist Alexander Berkman, best remembered for his attempt to kill Carnegie Steel president Henry Frick in his office during the 1892 Homestead Steel Strike, born, Vilna, Russia, 1870
22 **Wednesday**	PFLP terrorists detonate a car bomb in the middle of the Mahane Yehuda marketplace in Jerusalem, killing 10 Israelis and two Arabs, Israel, 1968
23 **Thursday**	A United Viscount-4 turboprop hits two swans in midair on its approach to the National Airport in Washington, DC; the crash kills all 17 on board, 1962
24 **Friday**	Charles "Lucky" Luciano, head of the New York City Mafia in the '30s and a key figure in the founding of the national crime syndicate, born, Lercara Friddi, Sicily, 1897
25 **Saturday**	A passenger train, under orders to remain on a siding to let two trains pass, ignores signals and pulls onto the track after the first and collides head-on with the second, killing 17, Woodstock, AL 1951
26 **Sunday**	Upset over their breakup, 15-yr. old Heather Smith ambushes her ex-boyfriend after wrestling practice, shooting and killing him and a friend before turning the gun on herself, Spanaway, WA 1985

We looked like the ideal American family people thought we were. But underneath this pleasant picture a war raged in our home.
--Harry De La Roche, Jr. (November 28)

27 **Monday**	A Brazilian 707 on its landing approach crashes for unknown reasons, killing all 97 on board, including Castro's economic advisor Raul Bonilla, Lima, Peru 1962
28 **Tuesday**	Harry De La Roche Jr., depressed over his poor performance during his first semester at The Citadel, shoots his parents and two little brothers, Montvale, NJ 1976
29 **Wednesday**	Movie star Natalie Wood, drunkenly trying to climb into a dinghy from an anchored yacht in the dark, falls in the water and drowns, Catalina Island, CA 1981
30 **Thursday**	Obese teenager Lowell Andrews, the "Nicest Boy of Woolcott, KS" who shot his parents and sister so he could inherit the family farm to finance his dream career of hired gun in Chicago, hanged, Leavenworth, KS 1962
1 **Friday**	A Yugoslavian DC9 crashes into a mountain while approaching Ajaccia Airport in the fog, killing all 174 on board, Corsica, 1981
2 **Saturday**	Washington State assemblyman Dick Van Dyke, best known for his sponsorship of a bill calling for an AIDs quarantine, commits suicide by running a hose from the exhaust pipe of his car, Bothell, WA 1986
3 **Sunday**	An Air France 707 crashes into the sea off Caracas, Venezuela shortly after takeoff and goes down with all 62 passengers and crew, 1969

December

4 **Monday**	Gary Gilmore, the double murderer who waived his appeals and became the first person executed in the US since 1967, born, TX 1940
5 **Tuesday**	Poet Vachal Lindsay, best known for "The Congo", commits suicide by drinking a bottle of lye, Springfield, IL 1931
6 **Wednesday**	George "Baby Face" Nelson, one of the leading bank robbers of the '30s "Public Enemy" era who killed three FBI agents, born, Chicago, IL 1908
7 **Thursday**	A 727 and DC9 collide while taxiing in heavy fog on the runway at Madrid's Barajas Airport; the collision, explosion, and fire kill 92, including all 42 on the DC9, Spain, 1983
8 **Friday**	A lamplighter brushes the scenery on the stage of Vienna's Ring Theater, starting a fire and stampede that kills 850, Austria, 1881
9 **Saturday**	A 19-yr. old Marine leaves his home in Hammond, IN bound for a rock concert; he is not seen again until his body is exhumed from the crawlspace under John Gacy's house, one of his 33 victims, 1977
10 **Sunday**	Actress Harriet Roman, who starred (as Susan Cabot) in Roger Corman movies like "Machine Gun Kelley", beaten to death by her dwarfish 22-yr. old son, Encino, CA 1986

He kept me out of employment... I had to either die in the street or kill him.
--Richard Price (December 16)

11 **Monday**	Second Largest US Mass Execution: 13 black soldiers hanged for their part in a 1916 Houston race riot in which 19 were killed, Fort Sam Houston, TX 1917
12 **Tuesday**	A commuter train stopped to notify control of a malfunctioning signal is hit by a second train; the wreckage blocks an adjacent track and is struck by a third train; 33 die, London, 1988
13 **Wednesday**	The Black Muslim-inspired Zebra killers who, in their six-month spree, killed 15 and injured eight whites in random attacks, shoot and seriously wound future S.F. mayor Art Agnos, San Francisco, 1973
14 **Thursday**	A Brazilian Lockheed Constellation crashes while landing at Manaus, Brazil, killing all 50 on board, 1962
15 **Friday**	Actress Thelma Todd found dead in her garage of carbon monoxide poisoning, Los Angeles, 1935
16 **Saturday**	Deranged unemployed bit actor Richard Price fatally stabs stage star William Ferriss at the stage door of London's Adelphi Theater; he will be sent to an asylum for the crime, England, 1897
17 **Sunday**	11-yr. old Mary Bell, who strangled two preschool boys, found guilty of two counts of manslaughter and is sentenced to detention for life, Newcastle, England, 1968

December

18 **Monday**	Charles Wilson, the last imprisoned member of the gang that pulled the $7 million Great Train Robbery in 1963, freed after serving 12 years of a 30 year sentence, England, 1978
19 **Tuesday**	Judy Johnson, the mother whose charges started the McMartin Preschool child molestation mass hysteria, found dead in her home of unspecified causes, Manhattan Beach, CA 1986
20 **Wednesday**	Howard Beach: twelve white teenagers attack a group of three black men with baseball bats, injuring one and chasing 23-yr. old Michael Griffith onto the Shore Parkway, where he is hit by a car and killed, NY 1986
21 **Thursday**	"Trash Bag Killer" Patrick Kearney, suspected of killing and dismembering 18 men and dumping their bodies in trash bags, pleads guilty to three counts of murder and is sentenced to life, Riverside, CA 1977
22 **Friday**	Joachim Kroll strangles and rapes a 5-yr. old girl and cuts off part of her body to eat later, his eighth of 11 victims, Wuppertal, West Germany 1966
23 **Saturday**	Billy Cook, the droopy-eyed hitchhiker who killed a family of five and another man during a two-week 1951 crime spree in the Southwest, born, Joplin, MO 1928
24 **Sunday**	Someone knocks over a candle on a Xmas tree during a parent/student party in the one-room Babb's Switch School; the fire and the stampede to the only door destroys the school and kills 36, Babb's Switch, OK 1924

What would be the worst thing that could happen to me? Would they hang me?

--Mary Bell (December 17)

25 **Monday**	A lightning flash from an electrical short circuit panics worshippers during Mass; 23 die in the ensuing stampede, Temoaya, Mexico, 1953
26 **Tuesday**	Richard Chase, the "Vampire of Sacramento" who drank the blood of two of his six victims, commits suicide on death row by overdosing on hoarded medication, San Quentin, CA 1980
27 **Wednesday**	Upset over a controversial drainage ditch project, John Magnuson sends a mail bomb that injures Wood County board chairman James Chapman and kills his wife, Marshfield, WI 1922
28 **Thursday**	After killing 14 relatives over the Xmas holidays, R. Gene Simmons opens fire in his former workplace, killing two erstwhile co-workers and injuring four others before surrendering, Russellville, AR 1987
29 **Friday**	Singer/songwriter Tim Hardin, best known for writing "If I Were a Carpenter", dies of a heroin overdose, Los Angles, 1980
30 **Saturday**	40-yr. old Ronald Dreesman shoots his father, mother, sister and her three children at the dinner table before turning the rifle on himself, Algona, IA 1987
31 **Sunday**	Two hotel workers start a fire in the ballroom of the DuPont Plaza hotel after a meeting of their union; the fire will kill 96, San Juan, Puerto Rico 1986

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